

REMARKS

The undersigned appreciates the indication that the amended drawings and amendments to the specification have been acknowledged.

Claims 9-14 have been canceled without prejudice as being drawn to a non-elected invention as required in the previous office action.

Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to place them in prima facie condition for allowance.

Specifically, with respect to the rejection lodged under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, "the electronic mail address" has been replaced with "an electronic mail address" in both claims 1 and 15, as identified by the Examiner.

With respect to the rejections of the claims lodged under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 (i.e., claims 1-4, 6-8 and 15 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,643,687 to Dickie and claim 5 was rejected as being obvious over a combination of Dickie and U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0230566 to Balijepalli), these rejections are traversed in view of the amendments above.

Dickie discloses that "If the sender has authorized a reply to the e-mail, a return address is generated in step 570 that is a proxy e-mail address corresponding to but not equivalent with the sender's actual e-mail address. This return e-mail address is to be received by server system 40, and converted to the sender's actual e-mail" (see column 6, lines 17-23).

In sharp contrast, each of claims 1 and 15 requires
"the information being generated at said electronic mail transfer device";
and

"transferring the electronic mail with the information to said reception terminal"; and

"converting the address of a transmission destination of a reply electronic mail to the address of the transmission source before the address conversion on the basis of the information appending to the reply electronic e-mail".

In short, in the present invention, the information (for example, mail number "123") is appended to electronic mail, the electronic mail with the information is transferred, and the address of a transmission destination of a reply

electronic mail is converted to the address of the transmission source before the address conversion on the basis of the information appending to the reply electronic mail.

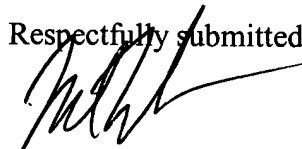
Dickie does not disclose or suggest these requirements, therefore, the claims cannot be anticipated by Dickie. Further, Balijepalli does not make up for the deficiencies of Dickie, therefore dependent claim 5 cannot be obvious over a combination of Dickie and Balijepalli.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1 to 9 and 15 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041 (Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P.C.).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael E. Whitham
Reg. No. 32,635

Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P.C.
11491 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 340
Reston, VA 20190
Tel. (703) 787-9400
Fax. (703) 787-7557
Customer No.: 30 743